



## APPLYING FOR A NONIMMIGRANT VISA TO THE UNITED STATES

Thank you for your payment of the application fee for a **nonimmigrant visa** (fees related to immigrant visas are payable at the Consular Section ONLY). Please note that this payment is an application-processing fee and is not refundable or transferable.

Most nonimmigrant visa applicants must appear for a **scheduled visa interview**, at the Consular Section of the United States Embassy in Sofia. You must schedule your interview on the Consular Section website (<http://www.usembassy.bg/consular/consular.html>) by selecting a date and time and entering the required information. Please note that your application fee is valid for one year from the date of payment, so the interview must take place within that period. After you schedule your interview, the system will show you a confirmation screen that includes the information you entered and the date and time of the interview. **THIS IS THE ONLY CONFIRMATION YOU WILL RECEIVE OF YOUR SCHEDULED APPOINTMENT.** You must print out this page and bring it with you to the interview appointment. **If you are signed up with a Bulgarian agency and applying for an H2B or J1 visa for temporary work, do not schedule your own appointment, the agency will arrange one for you.**

Those with access to the Internet and knowledge of English may now complete some visa forms online, print them out, and receive **expedited processing** at the Consular Section on the day of the interview. Please visit our website, <http://www.usembassy.bg/consular/consular.html>, to find out how to use these forms, which are located at <http://evisaforms.state.gov>. **The "barcode" DS-156 is REQUIRED from all applicants for F, J, H, L, M, O, P and Q visas.** There is a lengthy explanation of recommended supporting documentation for different types of nonimmigrant visa available on the website. Please review this information prior to your interview.

Depending upon the season, the soonest available time for an interview may be as much as two months away, or even longer. Our website tells what the approximate current waiting period is. **The Consular Section advises that you DO NOT purchase nonrefundable airplane tickets until after you have been issued a visa.** If need to reschedule your appointment, you may do so on the scheduling website, using the information you entered when you scheduled the initial appointment. If you need an interview on a date that is not available on our Internet scheduling site, you may send a request to be rescheduled by fax to (02) 937-5209 or by e-mail to [nivappt\\_sofia@state.gov](mailto:nivappt_sofia@state.gov). Priority is given to such requests from those with medical emergencies and some others, on a space-available basis. See [www.usembassy.bg/consular/expedite.html](http://www.usembassy.bg/consular/expedite.html).

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Applicants who have been refused a visa will not be admitted to a new interview at the Consular Section of the U.S. Embassy in Sofia for 12 months following the refusal date, *even if they make an appointment on the Internet*. Within that 12-month period, such applicants may ONLY submit new visa applications (which must include the yellow Unionbank receipt showing payment of a new application fee) via mail, following the instructions on the letter given to them at the most recent interview. These applicants will be admitted to an interview ONLY with a letter from us inviting them to an interview appointment.